

**Maryland Coal Mining Heritage: Green Glades and Sooty Gob Piles: A
Preservation Guide to the Management of Historical Resources
Of the Coal Region of Maryland**

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In the 1980's, after the passage of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, newly formed state abandoned mine lands programs were tasked with completing program development studies that would inventory, describe and protect environmental and cultural resources at potential risk during abandoned coal mine reclamation projects. Research assessment field studies were carried out by professional historians and archeologists to inventory, document and organize essential data and information on historic standing structures, prehistoric archeological resources, and historic archeological structures in the coal region of western Maryland. This presentation will describe Maryland's experience to develop a unique methodology to rank and document in detail the vast landscape of the State's Coal Mining Heritage.

A detailed but abbreviated comprehensive documentation method was developed to evaluate each potential historic structure based on a combined ranking score of known architectural integrity, architectural significance, and historical significance. Beginning in 1980, five historians spent four years visiting every site over 50 years old in the coal region, filling out multiple forms, detailing important descriptive and historical information along with color slides and standard black and white photographs. All this information was compiled and preserved by site in individual files that were available at the Maryland Abandoned Mine Lands Office and at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) in Annapolis, Maryland. By 1990, the lead historian, Donna M. Ware, took the mountain of important historical data and summarized it in an MHT published book entitled Green Glades and Sooty Gob Piles. This comprehensive guide provided access to detailed information that was and continues to be an invaluable aid for cultural and environmental resource managers. With the advent of the computer age, the Maryland Historical Trust funded an online resource that included access to the results of the entire survey.

Green Glades and Sooty Gob Piles: Ware, Donna M. 1990. The Maryland coal region's industrial and architectural past; a preservation guide to the survey and management of historic resources / Maryland Historical Trust, Division of

Historical and Cultural Programs. This book was produced as a compendium to the detailed comprehensive historic sites survey project completed by the Maryland Historical Trust for the Maryland Bureau of Mines in 1984.

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP): an online resource (http://mht.maryland.gov/research_mihp.shtml) that is available on the Maryland Historical Trust website. The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) is a repository of information on districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of known or potential value to the prehistory and history of the State of Maryland. The MIHP includes information about both standing structures and archeological resources. Inventoried properties contribute information to our understanding of Maryland's architecture, engineering, archeology, or culture. The information collected for the western Maryland inventory has been added to the MIHP for viewing and printing.